GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1060
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2008
ACCIDENTS IN COAL MINES
Nandy Shri Amitava

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey/study on the factors responsible for most of the coal mines disasters/accidents occurred during the last three years;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken to prevent recurrence of such accidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During last three years 2 major accidents have taken place in underground coal mines.One was caused due to inundation of water and the other due to methane gas explosion.Analysis of other accidents revealed that the major cause of fatal accidents in underground mines is roof and side fall whereas that in opencast mines is movement of dumpers and trucks.

(c) In addition to complying with the statutory provisions related to safety in coal mines the following broad steps have been taken to prevent recurrence of accidents in coal mines:

1. Coal companies have established a structured multi- disciplinary Internal Safety Organization(ISO) to assist the line management at various levels in matters related to Safety.

2. Coal companies have introduced Risk Assessment based Safety Management Plan for its mines to mitigate potential dangers.

3.Safety Audit is being conducted regularly for all mines.Recently two stage Safety Audit system has been introduced, in which in the first stage the deficiencies, if any, in the Safety System are detected and remedial measures suggested and in the second stage compliance of the suggested measures is checked through the Audit.

4. For prevention of Disaster following steps are taken by the coal companies:

(a) inundation: Thrust on Safety Audit, Check Survey, Trials of Geo-physical Methods for;detection of water bodies and proving of parting etc.

(b) Fire in mines: Adoption of Panel (sectionalized) system of working so that in case of fire the same can be isolated immediately,strengthening of isolation stoppings and use of fire retardant sealant etc.

(c) Explosion: Early Gas detection through modern gadget,Continuous Gas monitoring for highly gassy and fiery mines.

5. For reduction of Roof & Side fall accident: Roof/Side fall accident is one of the major cause of fatal accident in underground mines. Coal companies give priority for ensuring roof support management through:

Adoption of systematic Support Plan based on Rock-mass-rating (RMR) of over-lying roof strata.
Greater use of Roof Bolting Stitching methods of roof support.
Introduction of mechanized drilling by roof bolting machines.
Emphasis on development of indicators for impending load on roof.

6. For reduction of fatalities in Opencast Mines and at Surface of Mines the following measures are being taken:

Adoption of Mine specific Traffic Rule.
Following Code of Practices for HEM operators, Maintenance staff and others.
Conducting Risk Assessment and developing Safety Management Plan.
Training of Contractor's Workers involved in outsourced jobs.